

# Phoenix News

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*Research Newsletter of the School of Humanities  
Coventry University; Ed. Prof. Neil Renwick*

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## Snippets

Felix Roesch signed a contract with Rowman & Littlefield to publish an edited volume in their "Global Dialogues: Developing Non-Eurocentric IR and IPE" series. The book has the title "Modern Japanese Political Thought and International Relations. Encounters of Difference since the 19th Century".

Simon Smith has been invited to participate in a colloquium, featuring a number of world experts on data-driven learning, at next year's American Association of Applied Linguistics in Portland, Oregon.

Judi Atkins wrote a post with Nick Turnbull, entitled 'Jeremy Corbyn's rhetorical dilemma: Left-wing populism or mainstream convention?' for the British Politics and Policy at LSE blog. See <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/jeremy-corbyn-rhetorical-dilemma/>

Michael Cribb is researching a paper entitled 'Articulating academic vocabulary: The problem for Chinese students of English.'



The paper will be presented at the School's 2nd China Symposium, to be held in February 2017.

## Judi Atkins Awarded International Prize

Many congratulations to Dr. Judi Atkins, Lecturer in Politics, who has been awarded the James B. Christoph Prize for the best conference paper presented by a junior faculty member in the British Politics Group of the American Political Science Association.

## Confucius Institute provides exciting new research platform

The Confucius Institute is a collaboration between Coventry University and Jiangxi University of Finance and Economics (JUFE) in Nanchang, south-east China.

Along with another 29 institutes across the UK, it will provide original and innovative research on language, society and culture to strengthen empirically-informed policy-making.

Following the 'soft' launch in the February, 2016 China Symposium (see p.4), day of events was held on 12 May to mark the formal launch. Coventry University welcomed Minister Ni Jian and Minister Counsellor Shen Yang from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the UK.

Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Latham, said: "Coventry has a long history of engagement with China and there are many points of connection between there and our region."

## Conference News

**Felix Roesch** presented a paper titled "Basso Ostinato or How to Do Global IR?" at the ISA Asia-Pacific Conference at the City University of Hong Kong, 25-27 June. He also organised a workshop on "Modern Japanese Political Thought in International Relations" in Kakunodate, Northern Japan from 29-31 July 2016. This workshop was supported by a Pump Prime Grant and brought together colleagues from the UK, the United States, and Japan. Results of this workshop will be published with Rowman & Littlefield. Dr. Roesch is part of the organising committee for the Fifth Global International Studies Conference of the WISC in April 2017 at the National Taiwan University in Taipei. <http://www.wisc2017.org/>

**Neil Renwick** presented an invited paper and was a Roundtable member at the IHEID Conference and Roundtable on the Extractive Industries and Local Governance in Developing Countries: Challenges and Solutions held at the Graduate Institute, Geneva, 18 January 2016. He also presented a paper entitled 'China and the Emerging Powers: Security and Development in Southeast Asia' at the ISA Asia-Pacific Conference at the City University of Hong Kong, 25-27 June.

**Judi Atkins** gave an invited presentation at the workshop 'Figuring the Audience, Addressing the Nation: Political Speechwriting on National Identity', which was organised by the Network for Oratory and Politics and held at University College London on 4 July 2016. She also presented two papers at the 66th Annual Conference of the Political Studies Association, which took place in Brighton in March 2016.

**Laurent Binet** published two articles in *The Conversation*: 'Référendum sur le « Brexit » : comme un air de déjà vu...', 15 June 2016, [theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com/referendum-sur-le-brexit-comme-un-air-de-deja-vu-60931). <http://theconversation.com/referendum-sur-le-brexit-comme-un-air-de-deja-vu-60931>; 'Un « out » qui vient en écho au « non » de 2005', 11 July 2016, [theconversation.com](http://theconversation.com/un-out-qui-vient-en-echo-au-non-de-2005-61946). <http://theconversation.com/un-out-qui-vient-en-echo-au-non-de-2005-61946>. Dr. Binet will give a paper 'Mutations et transitions dans les discours eurosceptiques français de 1992 à nos jours' to the ASMCF Conference 'Transitions', Aston University, 6-7 September 2016.

## Recent Publication News

**Judi Atkins**

(2016) '(Re)imagining Magna Carta: Myth, Metaphor and the Rhetoric of Britishness', *Parliamentary Affairs*, 69(3), pp. 603-620.

(2016), co-authored with Alan Finlayson, "'As Shakespeare so memorably said...': Quotation, Rhetoric and the Performance of Politics', *Political Studies*, 64(1), pp. 164-181

(2016) '(Re)imagining Magna Carta: Myth and Metaphor in Gordon Brown's Rhetoric of Britishness', in N. Renwick and M. Bratton (eds), *Magna Carta: New Perspectives*, Coventry: Phoenix Occasional Papers, pp. 10-16

**Felix Roesch**

(2016) 'Approaching the Unsynthesizable in International Politics: Giving Substance to Security Discourses through Basso Ostinato?', *European Journal of International Relations* 10.1177/1354066116656764; <http://ejt.sagepub.com/content/early/2016/07/06/1354066116656764.abstract>.

(2016) Crisis, Values, and the Purpose of Science: Morgenthau in Europe. *Ethics & International Affairs* 30 (2016), 1: 1-9; <https://www.ethicsandinternationalaffairs.org/2016/crisis-values-and-the-purpose-of-science-hans-morgenthau-in-europe>.

**Laurent Binet**

(2016) 'Touche pas à mon pain au chocolat!' The theme of food in current French political discourses, *Modern & contemporary France*, August, Vol.24(3), p.239-252.

**Neil Renwick**

*Published:*

(2016) *China as a Development Actor in Southeast Asia*, IDS Evidence Report 187 (Brighton: Institute of Developing Studies), April.

*Forthcoming:*

(2016) *China's Emerging Role in International Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)*, IDS Policy Briefing, (Brighton: Institute of Developing Studies)

(2016) with Dr. Jing Gu (IDS), Professor Song Hong (Chinese Academy of Social Science) 'China and Local Governance in the Extractive Industries: A Study of Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia',

(2016) 'Poverty, Hunger, Spirituality and Faith' in Chathapuram, S. Ramanathan, Srilatha Juvva, Irene Queiro-Tejalli, Subhabrata Dutta (eds), *Spirituality, Culture and Development* (Indiana: Lexington Books).

*Pending:*

(2017) India, China and African Sustainable Development: Current Roles and Prospects for an Asian Partnership?

## School e-publications

Following the University restructuring, and creation of the School of Humanities (HUM),, Phoenix News, Phoenix Occasional Papers (OPs) and Phoenix Policy Briefs (PBs) previously published in the Department of International Studies, now run as HUM e-publications..

Those interested in contributing to any of these publications should contact Neil Renwick. The Occasional Papers carry British Library ISSN and are also DOS registered. Publication is online via CURVE. OPs are variable in length, depending on the subject matter. PBs are strictly 4 A4 pages maximum. Both with font size 12 in Helvetica font. Primary headings should be in bold with font size 14, sub-headings in italics only with font size 12.

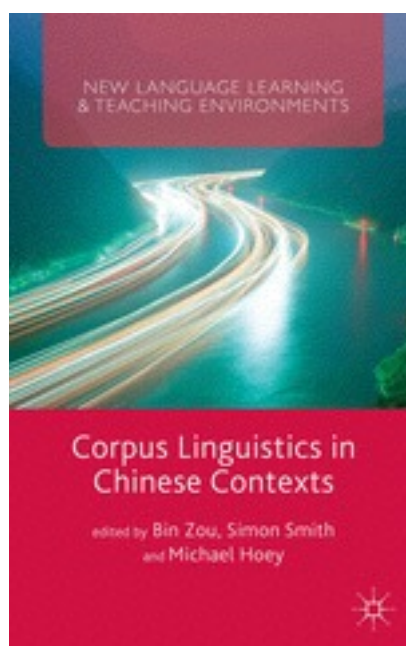
### OCCASIONAL PAPERS

1. Neil Renwick and Mark Bratton (eds) *Magna Carta: New Perspectives*, November.
2. Nenov, Svetoslav, Renwick, Neil *et.al.*, *Contemporary Security Challenges* (forthcoming).
3. China: Language, Culture, Knowledge, Research: Proceedings of the 1st HUM/CI China Symposium (forthcoming)

### POLICY BRIEFS

1. Neil Renwick (2015) *Myanmar: Hard won victory the start of an even harder road?* November
2. Neil Renwick (2015) *Paris Terrorist Attacks 13.11.15: Analysis.* November.
3. Jacob Phillipps (2016) *Human Security and Security Sector Reform* (forthcoming)
4. Neil Renwick (2016) *G20 Hangzhou Summit 2016: Challenges of Governance*, August.

## Publication in profile



## Corpus Linguistics in Chinese Contexts

**Editors: Zou, Bin, Hoey, Michael, Smith, Simon**

**Palgrave Macmillan, July 2015**

Corpora have become increasingly important in the last few decades. New tools for corpus construction and consultation help researchers, translators, lexicographers, teachers and language learners collect and analyse data and use corpora more effectively. However, in China corpus methods have not yet been widely adopted. Outside the corpus linguistics community there is, to date, a lack of awareness of what corpora can offer, whether in the compilation of dictionaries, the creation of corpus-informed materials, or data-driven learning tasks and approaches for use in the classroom or self-study. *Corpora in Chinese contexts* aims to advance the state of the art in the use of corpora in applied linguistics and to spread awareness of and expertise in corpus use in China.

The book is a vehicle for nationally and internationally renowned experts to share their work on corpora and technology in language teaching and research. It makes an important contribution to integrating corpora and technology in language teaching and research in China, and appeals to a wide variety of readers, including anyone who is interested in teaching languages with the use of corpora and technology.

It targets, in particular, language teachers who are in China, or whose students are Chinese, or who are learning Chinese, helping them to use corpus technologies, encouraging the students to learn more autonomously, or through exposure to more authentic texts.

It is hoped, too, that the book will appeal to the corpus research community internationally, as well as to educational organisations and HE institutions who are integrating corpus technologies into their existing syllabuses. The four chapters which do not directly address pedagogical issues will also be of interest to general corpus linguists in China and beyond.

## China Symposium 2016

### China: Language, Culture, Knowledge, Research

The inaugural School of Humanities China Symposium was held in February 2016. The event provided a new forum in which to showcase the excellent work being done on China across the School, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the wider University. The symposium brought together a range of staff offering a broad spectrum of teaching, learning, training and research interests. The one-day event attracted over 40 participants.



The morning session focused on the theme of Teaching, Training and Learning. It began with Dr. Simon Smith, Senior Lecturer in Academic English, presenting on 'Flipping the Chinese classroom: online innovation in Mandarin teaching'. This was followed a presentation by Mr. James Henry, 'Lecturer in English, 'Delivering EAP Courses for Chinese Business Students - Experiences and Reflections. The Symposium was especially delighted to welcome Professor Lixin Xia from our partner university, the Guangdong University of Foreign Studies and Visiting Scholar in the School. In his fascinating presentation, Professor Xia examined the complexities of 'China English'. In the final talk of the morning, Mr Bob Wilkinson, Internationalisation Champion and Principal Lecturer of Applied Linguistics, provided 'A neophyte's guide to the cultural and intellectual demands of creating a seminar series for visiting academics from China'.



Marina Orsini-Jones and Margaret Liu

In the afternoon, presentations focused on the theme of *Researching China*. There was an eclectic mix of topics. Dr. Emma Meehan, Research Fellow, Centre for Dance Research (C-DaRE) presented her cutting-edge analysis centred on 'Dance, somatic practices and wellbeing', whilst Hilary Nesi, Professor of English Language, spoke on the subject of 'English as a Business *Lingua Franca* in China' and Dr. Margaret Liu, Senior Lecturer in Law, Coventry Law School, brought clarity for our understanding of the complexities of Chinese law in the final talk of the day entitled 'The Changing Chinese Legal System'.

Symposium Organiser, Professor Neil Renwick, commented that *"There is a wealth of China knowledge and understanding in our School and Faculty and the substantial interest in the symposium is testament to this. I am particularly pleased that we have been able to hold this important academic session in conjunction with our colleague from China, Professor Xia, the University's Chinese New Year celebrations, and for this meeting to act as the 'soft launch' of the School's new Confucius Institute. I will be building on this excellent beginning with a series of research seminars on the Coventry Campus and a workshop on China at the London Campus in the Autumn and organising a second China Symposium in February 2017"*



## Research Report

### **Learning Technical Vocabulary: helping our international students meet the terminology challenge**

**S**imon Smith (Senior Lecturer in Academic English and Chinese) has been working on innovative approaches to technical vocabulary learning by international students. Many of his Academic English students, taking courses such as Accounting and Finance for International Business, have a good command of general English vocabulary, but are often stumped by the specialist terminology of their field, and this has been highlighted by subject tutors as a challenge for international students. The traditional approach to teaching this terminology has been through the use of wordlists, such as the glossaries typically found at the back of specialist textbooks.

**N**oting that learning from a list of words is can be dull or demotivating for many students, Simon adopted a data-driven learning (DDL) approach, whereby students leverage their course Moodle content to generate their own DIY corpus: a database of authentic, subject-specific texts, which can include PowerPoint slides, seminar notes, and even past exam papers. The students use a software platform called Sketch Engine to expand the corpus, bringing in similar, related texts from the Web. Then, they build their own personal terminology portfolio which they can adapt, maintain and add to throughout their course and beyond. The fact that the students are themselves engaged in creating the resources, rather than merely studying them and trying to memorise terms, means that the terminology is much more likely to be internalised.

**W**ith the help of two other Academic English lecturers in the School, James Henry and Benet Vincent, Simon conducted research which showed that Accounting and Finance for International Business students who had learned terminology through the approach outperformed those who had not on a post-test. The approach was further trialled by members of several schools and departments around the university, as part of a group project led by Simon on his PGCapHE course, leading to HEA Fellowship. This summer, he presented the work at the 12th Teaching and Language Corpora Conference (TaLC 12), which was held at Giessen University, near Frankfurt, from 20 to 23 July 2016. This was part of a collaborative project with Dr Nicole Keng of the University of Vaasa, Finland. In this study, Simon and Dr Keng compared the ways the resources were used by international students at CU, most of whom were from a Chinese cultural background, and Finnish business students also taking an Academic English module. A number of interesting differences between the perceptions of members of the two cohorts were presented in the paper.

**S**imon has written the work up formally for the highly rated Language Learning & Technology, currently under review, and has been invited to participate in a colloquium, featuring a number of world experts on data-driven learning, at next year's American Association of Applied Linguistics in Portland, Oregon.

## Research Impact Report



### ***Advising the G20 Leaders' Summit***

Neil Renwick addressed the 'T20', the official meeting of think tank researchers charged with drawing-up recommendations to the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, China in September 2016. The G20 is the major grouping of the world's leading economies.

The meeting, known as the T20 (short for ThinkTank20), brought together 500 think tank experts, politicians and representatives of international organisations from 25 countries. The T20 was organised by three major Chinese think tanks appointed by the Chinese Government—the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies and the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at Renmin University of China. In opening the meeting Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong, responsible for organising the Hangzhou Summit, stated that as “one of the important outreach groups of the G20, the T20 is a significant platform for global think tank researchers to provide policymaking thoughts and suggestions for the G20.”



The conference addressed the key policy goals expected to be agreed at the G20 Hangzhou summit including innovating growth models, improving global economic governance, revitalising international trade and investment as well as focusing on sustainable development issues.

As one of the specially-invited speakers at T20, Professor Renwick joined senior officials from the United Nations Global Compact, World Bank, International Monetary Fund and Organisation for Economics and Development and other major organisations. Professor Renwick was asked to speak about finding new ways for strengthening the relationship between the G20 and international organisations. In an interview with Chinese national media, he commented that “China’s leadership of the G20 this year has given a new, firmer focus and sense of direction to the G20 in the face of significant global challenges. G20 is changing to meet these challenges, for example by prioritising sustainable development and the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.”

China hands over G20 leadership to Germany at the end of 2016 and Professor Renwick has been invited to participate throughout the 2017 T20 process and events organised by the German Development Institute on behalf of the German Government.

## Media Matters

**Judi Atkins** provided comment on the rhetoric of violence in British politics to *The Guardian*. See Bland, A. (2016) 'How did the language of politics get so toxic?' *Guardian*, 31 July, available: <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2016/jul/31/how-did-the-language-of-politics-get-so-toxic>

**Neil Renwick** was interviewed by the Shenzhen Media Group, one of China's leading satellite media groups watched by millions across China. In a wide-ranging interview, he addressed questions about the G20 Leaders' Summit being held in the southern Chinese city of Hangzhou in early September and controversial issues of the South China Sea dispute, China-US relations, and the G20's answers to the pressures of globalisation and the international refugee crisis.

In the interview, to be broadcast on the eve of the Hangzhou Summit, Professor Renwick's key messages were that "the G20 agenda is tackling critical issues facing the global economy: the need to find innovative ways to help spur growth in a sluggish global economy; make global institutions work together more effectively by improving governance; and cooperate closely to ensure global economic growth is inclusive." The importance being attached to the G20 contributions to the Paris Climate Change Agreement and to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is also of major significance.

Looking at the South China Sea dispute and China-US relations, he commented that "It is important that there is continuing dialogue between the interested parties in the region. Pushing for a greater commitment to the existing regional cooperation agreement on the issue is one way China and the US could work towards a political resolution of the issue." Asked how the G20 could provide answers to current challenges of globalisation such as the international refugee crisis, he stated that "The changing G20 agenda recognises that global challenges require global responses and closer cooperation to be effective. Achieving global economic growth and ensuring greater inclusivity can help meet challenges such as the refugee crisis."

Neil has been invited to become a member of CCTV's international panel of expert commentators on international affairs. In this capacity, he will provide expert commentary on the G20 Hangzhou Summit in a television interview at CCTV national headquarters to be broadcast on the evening of the 4th September, the opening day of the Summit.

Neil's address to the T20 Beijing Summit was reported extensively in the Chinese language media by the principal Chinese language news network, [peoples.cn](http://peoples.cn), re-reported by over 30 Chinese networks across the country and cited in WeChat postings.

In addition, during his Beijing stay, Neil has been interviewed by the Chinese language [youth.cn](http://youth.cn), the leading news website, part of the website of the Chinese Communist Youth League.